

## Andrew Jackson to John Forsyth, September 6, 1835, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO SECRETARY FORSYTH.

Washington, September 6, 1835.

*My dear sir,* Yours of the 4th is recd. I sincerely regret your indisposition and yr. absence.

The case of Mr. Harris and the D. de B.<sup>1</sup> has not, nor can have any likeness to the present. Harris was, as is to be presumed, obtruding himself on the Duke as a confidential man of our Government, the notice to the Duke was therefore to prevent him from being led in the error, by the information of this intruder Harris, and by us to rebuke Harris for his interference, but this is an official communication from the Duke to his own minister and relates to our public relations and requested to be read by him to our Government informally, to shield them from the necessity of making a communication of the law direct to this Government which they are bound to do before we can official[ly] notice it with its condition, which Mr. Livingston has already told them would be viewed if adopted, and I add righ[t]fully viewed, as a rejection of the treaty.

<sup>1</sup> For the incident to which this letter refers see Bassett's *Jackson*, II. 668–671.

The inclosed will give you my view of this matter. I understand this manuvre I think, and I will do no act to relieve them from their dilemma, they will get no other explanation than they have already got thro the message itself, and then the already just one thro our minister—it is for this reason that we cannot *hear* such a paper until it is communicated

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to us officially and thereby making it as an official communication to this Government it cannot be noticed by us.

The contents of the communication if made to us officially by Mr. Pajout is such that we cannot discuss or permit any or all Foreign nations to have the arrogance to presume to claim the right to dictate the phraseology or manner that the Executive choses to make his communications to the congress of the united states. if then Mr. P. does not make a communication officially, we must tell him at once, we cannot hear his letter, if he makes the communication officially then he must be in a laconic manner, told in writing, that we cannot discuss this subject, nor will never permit it to be discussed by any foreign nation.

We must make a full communication to go by the packett of the 8 or the 16th at furthest to Mr. Barton as intimated in the rough scetch forwarded and close this subject with France on our part and have Mr. Bartons answer in due time before the meeting of Congress to use in my communication.

I would be happy to have you here if your health would permit, if not we must act without you, but your ideas will be thankfully recd.

In haste yrs respectfully